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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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ARENT FOX LLP				
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SUITE 400				
WASHINGTON, DC 20036				
EXAMINER				
LANEAU, RONALD				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3714				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/06/2011		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

DCIPDocket@arentfox.com
IPMatters@arentfox.com
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Office Action Summary**Application No.**

09/964,883

Applicant(s)

HENDRICKS, JOHN S.

Examiner

RONALD LANEAU

Art Unit

3714

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2011.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- 4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 16-29 and 36-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 5a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 16-29, 36-40 is/are rejected.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 9) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____
- Patent No(s)/Mail Date: ____

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 08/15/11 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 15-29 and 36-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Borsuk (US 5,475,399) in view of Hartrick et al (US 5,532,920).

As per claims 15, 20 and 25, Borsuk discloses a method for providing on-line accounts for purchases of electronic books via a computer (see fig. 5), comprising: storing identifications of a plurality of electronic books on a viewer in a repository accessible by a processor at an operations center (see figs. 1, 5). Borsuk does not explicitly disclose a billing system for subscribers of electronic books but Hartrick discloses providing the electronic books for purchase by subscribers at a user interface functioning via the processor (see abstract). initializing a plurality of home subsystems to create on-line accounts for a subscribers, including transferring subscriber information and a billing account to a billing and collection system for

each of the subscribers (col. 3, lines 42-62); maintaining the on-line accounts for the subscribers in the repository (col. 5, lines 14-25); recording via the processor an indication of purchases of the electronic books in the corresponding accounts; associating via the processor an amount of each purchase with the source for the corresponding electronic book (col. 11, lines 38-60, see fig. 5); and permitting each of the subscribers to access a corresponding one of the on-line accounts for the subscriber at a user interface functioning via the processor enabling the subscriber to view information about recent orders (see fig. 11; anyone who created an account can access their account and review any past orders made and the history of the account).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the billing system as taught by Hartrick into the system of Borsuk because it would provide an improved method for managing the writing of a structured document so as to comply with royalty payment requirements of the documents.

As per claims 16 and 26, Borsuk's system is capable of providing on-line access to a customer service representative for the on-line accounts as claimed (see Borsuk, fig.5; e-book user can go online and will have access to customer service).

As per claims 17-19, 21-24 and 27-29, Hartrick discloses an apparatus wherein the associating step includes associating the amount with a publisher for the corresponding electronic book (col. 5, lines 14-32); wherein the providing step includes electronically communicating with a viewer for use in receiving requests to purchase the electronic books (see abs.); further including charging a subscriber account for the purchases (royalty payment)s;

further including generating a bill to one of the subscribers for the purchases (col. 12, lines 33-46).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the billing system as taught by Hartrick into the system of Borsuk for the same reasons previously given.

As per claim 36, Borsuk discloses a method further comprising security encoding the plurality of formatted electronic books (see fig. 2, 11; hand held reading unit having a display for displaying encoded text); wherein the plurality of electronic books is received from a plurality of sources having different formats of electronic books, and wherein formatting the electronic books includes converting the electronic books to a standard and a compressed format (encoder 11 can convert text into different formats as claimed).

As per claims 38 and 39, Borsuk discloses a method wherein the plurality of sources includes at least one selected from a group consisting of a publisher, a newspaper, and an on-line service (see fig. 5; handheld reading unit 1 is connected to a computer that has access to publishers and on-line service); wherein the plurality of sources includes a plurality of publishers (handheld 1 of figure 5 has access to a plurality of publishers as claimed).

As per claim 40, Hartrick discloses a method further comprising: receiving an indication of purchases of the electronic books via a combined cable and telephone switching system (col. 11, lines 38-60).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize method of purchases as taught by Hartrick into the system of Borsuk for the same reasons previously given.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 07/15/11 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that amended claim 15 recites among other features, a method of providing on-line accounts for purchases of electronic books via computer comprising permitting subscribers to access a corresponding on-line account for the subscriber at a user interface functioning via the processor enabling the subscriber to view information about recent orders. In response to Applicant's arguments, Hartrick discloses an on-line account for purchase on-line. It is well in the scope of Hartrick's system to allow a user of the on-line account to review about past orders. All purchases made on-line can be review through an on-line account as claimed by Applicant. Contrary to Applicant's description of fig. 11 in page 11 of his arguments, in order for a user to start downloading or purchase an on-line book, a user must first create an account with merchant and once that account is created, the user has access to a variety of contents. That is the Examiner's interpretation of "permitting a subscriber to access an on-line account." All arguments having been answered, claims 15-29 and 36-40 remain rejected.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald Laneau whose telephone number is (571)272-6784. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Lewis can be reached on (571) 272-7673. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ronald Laneau/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3714

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